

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
OES-06 EB-08 OIC-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /105 W
-----251934Z 110567 /53

R 251623Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4445

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 2792

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IMCO, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIA'S CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO IMCO COUNCIL

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' (MFA'S) NOTE
ON SUBJECT AS FOLLOWS:

QTE ... HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM IT OF DECISION OF GOL TO PRESENT ITS
CANDIDATURE FOR ELECTION TO COUNCIL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO) DURING ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN
NOVEMBER 1977 UNDER CATEGORY (A) OF ARTICLE 18 OF CONSTITUTION
OF IMCO.

MFA OF ROL (REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) WISHES TO NOTE THAT EVEN
THOUGH LIBERIA HAS LARGEST MERCHANT FLEET AND ACCORDINGLY, IS
LARGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTOR TO IMCO BUDGET, SHE HAS NOT ENJOYED
MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL, A VERY IMPORTANT IMCO BODY. NOT BEING
MEMBER OF COUNCIL, LIBERIA, FOR EXAMPLE, IS OBLIGED TO ACCEPT
DECISIONS OF COUNCIL, RELATING TO INCREASES IN BUDGET OF WHICH
SHE ALONE IS COMMITTED TO PAY 25 PERCENT EVEN WITHOUT PARTICIPATION
IN SUCH DECISION. MOREOVER LIBERIA HAS ASSIDUOUSLY STRIVEN TO
COMPLY FULLY WITH ALL DECISIONS OF COUNCIL AND FEELS THAT IT IS
NO MORE THAN FAIR THAT, BECAUSE OF HER INTERNATIONAL POSTURE AS
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LARGEST MARTIME NATION, SHE SHOULD PARTICIPATE AND BE FULLY
INVOLVED IN ALL SUCH DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES.

MFA OF ROL WISHES TO NOTE ALSO THAT, AS FOUNDING MEMBER OF
IMCO, LIBERIA HAS PARTICIPATED IN WORKS OF MOST OF IMCO BODIES
AND HAS ALSO RATIFIED MOST OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
CONVENTIONS WHICH SHE HAS SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED.

MFA OF ROL FEELS THEREFORE THAT BY VIRTUE OF FACT THAT LIBERIA IS LARGEST MARITIME NATION AND LARGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTOR TO BUDGET OF IMCO, COUPLED WITH FACT SHE HAS NEVER SERVED ON COUNCIL, SHE SHOULD BE ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL AND HOPES SHE CAN RELY ON VALUABLE SUPPORT OF GOVT. OF USA IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT MATTER. UNQTE.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS USG GIVE EARLY SUPPORT TO LIBERIA' CANDIDACY. EMBASSY WISHES TO AVOID REPETITION OF SCENARIO IN 1975 WHEN DECISION TO SUPPORT LIBERIA WAS MADE ALMOST ON EVE OF IMCO COUNCIL ELECTION -- TOO LATE TO INFLUENCE COUNTRIES FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD US. GOL HAS SUPPORTED USG POSITION AT VARIOUS FORA ON VARIETY OF ISSUES OVER MANY YEARS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DECISION TO SUPPORT LIBERIA'S CANDIDACY BE MADE EARLY SO IF THAT DECISION AFFIRMATIVE WE CAN SOLICIT SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES ON LIBERIA'S BEHALF BEFORE THEY HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO SOME OTHER CANDIDATE. CARTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, MEMBERSHIP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONROV02792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-0009
Format: TEL
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770423/aaaaatnj.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7836969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2706235
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBERIA'S CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO IMCO COUNCIL
TAGS: PORG, LI, IMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7836969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009